Filing Date: January 26, 2000

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING USER SELECTION OF AN ITEM CATEGORY IN AN ONLINE AUCTION

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said method comprising:

displaying a category field in a display window, said category field containing a plurality of category entries used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction;

detecting selection of one category entry of said plurality of category entries in said category field; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, displaying at least one subcategory field in said display window, concurrently with said category field, said at least one subcategory field containing a plurality of subcategory entries used to categorize said item in said transaction, said plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry of said plurality of category entries within a category hierarchy data structure.

- 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying a category number associated with said one category entry in said display window.
- 3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said category field comprises twelve category entries in alphabetical order.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising subsequently accessing said one category entry using said category number.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said displaying at least one subcategory field further includes displaying a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry of said plurality of category entries; displaying a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said

plurality of first subcategory entries; and displaying a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries.

- 6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.
- 7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.
- 8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.
- 9. (Previously Presented) A method to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of category entries to be displayed for said user in a category field within a display window, said plurality of category entries being used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction;

detecting selection by said user of a category entry of said plurality of category entries; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said category entry, providing a plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said selected category entry within a category hierarchy data structure, to be displayed for said user in at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said category field, said plurality of subcategory entries being used to categorize said item in said transaction.

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(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising providing a 10. category number associated with said selected category entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.

- (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said category field comprises 11. twelve category entries in alphabetical order.
- (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising 12. subsequently detecting input of said category number from said user and, responsive to said detection of said input, providing said associated category entry to be displayed for said user in said category field.
- (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said at least one 13. subcategory field further comprises a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said category entry of said plurality of category entries selected by said user; a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said plurality of first subcategory entries; and a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries.
- (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said category field and 14. said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.
- 15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.

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16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, cause said system to perform a method to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said method comprising:

displaying a category field in a display window, said category field containing a plurality of category entries used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction;

detecting selection of one category entry of said plurality of category entries in said category field; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, displaying at least one subcategory field in said display window, concurrently with said category field, said at least one subcategory field containing a plurality of subcategory entries used to categorize said item in said transaction, said plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry of said plurality of category entries within a category hierarchy data structure.

- 18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said method further comprises displaying a category number associated with said one category in said display window.
- 19. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said category field comprises twelve category entries in alphabetical order.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said method further comprises subsequently accessing said one category entry using said category number.

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21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said displaying at least one subcategory field further includes displaying a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry of said plurality of category entries; displaying a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said plurality of first subcategory entries; and displaying a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries.

- 22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.
- 23. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.
- 24. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.
- 25. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, cause said system to perform a method to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of category entries to be displayed for said user in a category field within a display window, said plurality of category entries being used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction;

detecting selection by said user of a category entry of said plurality of category entries; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said category entry, providing a plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said selected category entry within a

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category hierarchy data structure, to be displayed for said user in at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said category field, said plurality of subcategory entries being used to categorize said item in said transaction.

- 26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said method further comprises providing a category number associated with said selected category entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.
- 27. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said category field comprises twelve category entries in alphabetical order.
- 28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 26, wherein said method further comprises subsequently detecting input of said category number from said user and, responsive to said detection of said input, providing said associated category entry to be displayed for said user in said category field.
- 29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said at least one subcategory field further comprises a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said category entry of said plurality of category entries selected by said user; a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said plurality of first subcategory entries; and a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries.
- 30. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.

- (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 30, wherein said at least 31. one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.
- (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 30, wherein said category 32. field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.
- (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium 33. readable by a computer and tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by said computer to perform a method to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said method comprising:

displaying a category field in a display window, said category field containing a plurality of category entries used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction;

detecting selection of one category entry of said plurality of category entries in said category field; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, displaying at least one subcategory field in said display window, concurrently with said category field, said at least one subcategory field containing a plurality of subcategory entries used to categorize said item in said transaction, said plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry of said plurality of category entries within a category hierarchy data structure.

- 34. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said method further comprises displaying a category number associated with said one category entry in said display window.
- (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said category field 35. comprises twelve category entries in alphabetical order.

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36. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 34, wherein said method further comprises subsequently accessing said one category entry using said category number.

- 37. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said displaying at least one subcategory field further includes displaying a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry of said plurality of category entries; displaying a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said plurality of first subcategory entries; and displaying a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries.
- 38. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.
- 39. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 38, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.
- 40. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 38, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.
- 41. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by said computer to perform a method to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said method comprising:

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providing a plurality of category entries to be displayed for said user in a category field within a display window, said plurality of category entries being used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction;

detecting selection by said user of a category entry of said plurality of category entries selected by said user; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said category entry, providing a plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said selected category entry within a category hierarchy data structure, to be displayed for said user in at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said category field, said plurality of subcategory entries being used to categorize said item in said transaction.

- 42. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein said method further comprises providing a category number associated with said selected category entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.
- 43. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein said category field comprises twelve category entries in alphabetical order.
- 44. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 42, wherein said method further comprises subsequently detecting input of said category number from said user and, responsive to said detection of said input, providing said associated category entry to be displayed for said user in said category field.
- 45. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein said at least one subcategory field further comprises a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said category entry of said plurality of category entries selected by said user; a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said plurality of first subcategory entries; and a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third

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subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries.

- 46. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.
- 47. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 46, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.
- 48. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 46, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.
- 49. (Previously Presented) A system to facilitate category selection by a user in a computerized transaction, said system comprising:
 - a database; and

a server coupled to said database to provide a plurality of category entries to be displayed for said user in a category field within a display window, said plurality of category entries being used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction,

to detect selection of one category entry of said plurality of category entries by said user, and, responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, to determine whether said database contains a plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said one category entry within a category hierarchy data structure and being used to categorize said item in said computerized transaction and to provide said plurality of subcategory entries to be displayed for said user in at least one subcategory field within said display window concurrently with said category field.

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(Previously Presented) The system according to claim 49, wherein said server further 50. provides a category number associated with said one category entry to be displayed in said display window.

- (Original) The system according to claim 49, wherein said category field comprises 51. twelve category entries in alphabetical order.
- (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 50, wherein said server 52. subsequently detects input of said category number and, responsive to said detection of said input, provides said one category entry associated with said category number to be displayed in said category field.
- (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 49, wherein said category field and 53. said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window.
- 54. (Original) The system according to claim 53, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field.
- (Original) The system according to claim 53, wherein said category field and said at least 55. one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents.
- 56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: detecting selection of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries in said at least one subcategory field.

- 57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, further comprising: responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, displaying a category number associated with said one category entry and said at least one subcategory entry in said display window.
- 58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
 detecting selection by said user of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries.
- 59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 58, further comprising: responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, providing a category number associated with said selected category entry and said at least one selected subcategory entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.
- 60. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said method further comprises:

detecting selection of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries in said at least one subcategory field.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 60, wherein said method further comprises:

responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, displaying a category number associated with said one category entry and said at least one subcategory entry in said display window.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said method further comprises:

detecting selection by said user of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries.

(Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 62, wherein 63. said method further comprises:

responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, providing a category number associated with said selected category entry and said at least one selected subcategory entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.

(Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said 64. method further comprises:

detecting selection of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries in said at least one subcategory field.

(Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 64, wherein said 65. method further comprises:

responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, displaying a category number associated with said one category entry and said at least one subcategory entry in said display window.

66. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein said method further comprises:

detecting selection by said user of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries.

(Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 66, wherein said 67. method further comprises:

responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, providing a category number associated with said selected category entry and said at least one selected subcategory entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.

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(Previously Presented) The system according to claim 49, wherein said server further 68. detects selection by said user of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries.

- (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 68, wherein, responsive to said 69. detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, said server further provides a category number associated with said selected category entry and said at least one selected subcategory entry to be displayed for said user in said display window.
- (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein displaying said at least 70. one subcategory field further comprises:

maintaining said plurality of category entries in said category field within said display window; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, displaying said plurality of subcategory entries in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.

- (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of 71. category entries are maintained in said category field within said display window and said plurality of subcategory entries are displayed in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.
- (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein 72. displaying said at least one subcategory field further comprises:

maintaining said plurality of category entries in said category field within said display window; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, displaying said plurality of subcategory entries in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.

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73. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said plurality of category entries are maintained in said category field within said display window and said plurality of subcategory entries are displayed in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.

74. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein displaying said at least one subcategory field further comprises:

maintaining said plurality of category entries in said category field within said display window; and

responsive to said detection of said selection of said one category entry, displaying said plurality of subcategory entries in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.

- 75. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 41, wherein said plurality of category entries are maintained in said category field within said display window and said plurality of subcategory entries are displayed in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.
- 76. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 49, wherein said plurality of category entries are maintained in said category field within said display window and said plurality of subcategory entries are displayed in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries.